

Child Labour in hazardous occupations

981. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the present estimated number of child labourers in the country in hazardous occupations;
- (b) the details of success of Government in reducing the number of child labourers and the action against illegal employers;
- (c) the role of NGOs and social organizations involved in controlling the increase in child labourers; and
- (d) the rehabilitation measures of Government for the children, who have been rescued from their employment in hazardous occupations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Census is the most authentic source of information on the number of working children. As per census 2001, the number of working children in the country is 1.26 crore including both hazardous and non hazardous occupations.

(b) Government is committed to the goal of elimination of child labour in all its forms beginning with children working in hazardous occupations/processes. In this direction, Government is implementing the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) in 250 districts of 20 States in the country for withdrawing and rehabilitating working children in hazardous occupations and processes. Under the Scheme, children withdrawn from work are put into the Special Schools where these children are provided basic education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care in order to prepare them to be mainstreamed into formal schooling system. So far, 3.92 lakh children have been mainstreamed into formal education system.

The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 provides for penal provisions against offending employers. The State Governments are the appropriate authorities for enforcement for the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and are taking

necessary action against those employers found guilty of violating the provisions of the Act.

(c) Under the National Child Labour Project Scheme, special schools for working children are being run by the district administration with the help of NGOs and social organizations.

(d) Same as (b) above.

Beedi workers in the country

982. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of beedi workers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total number of women beedi workers in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether various Acts relating to welfare of beedi workers are being enforced strictly in all the States;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Central Government to further improve the condition of the beedi workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A Statement is annexed (See belows).

(c) and (d) Various Acts relating to welfare of beedi workers are being enforced strictly in the concerned States.

(e) Various welfare schemes in the sphere of health care, education, housing, social security are formulated and are in operation for the benefit of the beedi workers and their dependents.